

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7298

BILL NUMBER: HB 1274

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 19, 2015

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Public Records on the Internet.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Huston

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that if a public agency publishes a public record to an Internet web site, the public agency must publish the public record in an open format. It requires a public agency that maintains an Internet web site to publish catalogs of the public records published to the Internet web site. The bill also provides that the Office of Technology shall maintain an Internet web site that aggregates the catalogs of public records that public agencies are required to publish to their respective Internet web sites.

Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary* - There would be increased administrative workload and expense to comply with the bill's requirements by state and local agencies, the Oversight Committee on Public Records, and the Office of Technology. If state agencies are able to provide more user-friendly access to public information through an Internet web site as a result of this bill, they may receive fewer requests for information which could decrease some administrative workload and expense.

The website that would be required to be developed by the Office of Technology could initially cost about \$500,000 to \$600,000. The bill does not provide a specific time line for when the website would need to be completed.

If state agencies wish to convert paper records into electronic records, there would be costs incurred for this. The bill does not require additional records to be posted, but it encourages this action. There would also be storage costs, possible equipment and server costs, and records conversion costs (depending on the standards and/or rules set by the Oversight Committee on Public Records).

Additional Information - This bill would require the Office of Technology to produce and maintain an Internet web site that aggregates all of the catalogs of public records published by state and local agencies. State agencies would be required to publish catalogs of the public records that they publish on an Internet site and publish a catalog of the catalogs according to standards and/or rules established by the Oversight Committee on Public Records.

Explanation of State Revenues: If requests for public records decline, revenue from fees collected by state and local agencies for copying records, providing enhanced access to records, providing a duplicate of a computer tape, computer disc, microfilm, or similar or analogous record system, and providing electronic maps could also decline.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Local agencies would incur additional workload and expense due to the requirement to publish catalogs of the public records that they publish on an Internet site and publish a catalog of the catalogs according to standards and/or rules established by the Oversight Committee on Public Records. If local agencies wish to convert paper records into electronic records, there would be costs incurred for this. The bill does not require additional records to be posted, but it encourages this action. There would also be storage costs and records conversion costs (depending on the standards and/or rules set by the Oversight Committee on Public Records).

If local agencies are able to provide more user-friendly access to public information through an Internet web site as a result of this bill, they may receive fewer requests for information, which could decrease some administrative workload and expense.

Explanation of Local Revenues: See *Explanation of State Revenues*.

State Agencies Affected: All.

Local Agencies Affected: All.

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